



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of Emergency Management*

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May 2, 2012

R. Christian Eudailey  
Fire Chief  
County of Spotsylvania  
PO Box 818  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Dear Chief Eudailey:

Thank you for letter requesting an update on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for radiological monitoring. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Department of Health continue to review all resource capabilities that expedite a safe and timely determination of any possible radiological release.

State and federal partners were briefed, in October 2011, by Ken Jones on a proposal that he presented to the Virginian Fire Chiefs Association. As the result of the briefing, stakeholders have been working to establish monitoring requirements and a capabilities list to identify gaps and ensure a thorough understanding of the robust federal and private sector monitoring capabilities that already exist. While we await a copy of the original proposal from Mr. Jones, we continue to research the feasibility of this project.

We intend to schedule a meeting in the near future to discuss the results of our research, gain additional stakeholder input, and to determine a way ahead. We will ensure you are invited to that meeting.

Thank you for your continued commitment to emergency preparedness and response in Virginia. If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact Michael Nelson, at [michael.nelson@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.nelson@vdem.virginia.gov), 804-674-2400; or Greg Britt, at [gregory.britt@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:gregory.britt@vdem.virginia.gov), 804-897-9950; either of them will be glad to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. M. Cline".

Michael M. Cline

MMC/man

*"Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities"*

# County of Spotsylvania

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*Service, Integrity, Pride*

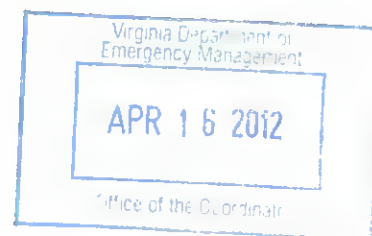
Department of Fire, Rescue, and  
Emergency Management (FREM)

R. CHRISTIAN EUDAILEY, Chief

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April 13, 2012



Mr. Michael Cline  
State Emergency Coordinator  
Virginia Department of Emergency Management  
10501 Trade court  
Richmond, Virginia 23236

Dear Mr. Cline:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the first responder community that is tasked with the responsibility to render assistance in the event there is an emergent issue requiring fire, EMS and law enforcement response to either the North Anna or Surry nuclear power stations. One of the critical responsibilities of the fire service is to provide off-site radiological monitoring; in order to enable the Incident Commander to make well informed decisions, regarding citizen evacuation and the emergency relocation of citizens downwind of the nuclear power station.

The current off-site radiological monitoring procedures utilize teams of trained hazardous materials firefighters who deploy in vehicles with radiological monitoring equipment. They are then directed to proceed to certain geographical positions to take radiological readings and then relay this information back to the Incident Command Post. This operational paradigm has been in place for a number of years and in light of the need to significantly reduce the potential exposure to first responders, new technology needs to be evaluated and brought into the operational picture.

One such technology that has markedly increased in capability is the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). The military has perfected the capability of the UAS program as a result of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In a similar nature, the technology for detecting and reporting in real time airborne radioactive releases has past the threshold of being air mobile in an UAS platform.

It is my understanding that a meeting was held in late October 2011 at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center in Richmond. The meeting brought together representatives from the Virginia National Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, Dominion Resources representing the nuclear power stations, the Environmental Protection Agency regarding airborne sensor capabilities, staff from VDEM's Radiological Emergency preparedness and response Division and Mr. Jones, the Emergency Coordinator for the City of Newport News.

The briefing was conducted by Mr. Jones and covered a number of elements that are required to make this capability a reality in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program was turned over to VDEM staff to set up a work program to further evaluate the issues that needed to be addressed in order to complete the development of a draft plan that would utilize the UAS system in a joint state, local and private sector initiative to provide the first responder Incident Commander with real time data on the location and migration of the downwind plume from one of the reactor sites.

Unfortunately, I must report that there has been no formal information exchanged with Mr. Jones who is representing the first responder community and your staff. There have been no meetings where first responder stakeholders have been invited; even though a follow-up kick off meeting was to be scheduled after the October VEOC briefing. The only information exchanged from VDEM staff has been questioned at two non-related meetings over the intervening six months. The perceived lack of interaction causes me as a Fire Chief with responsibility for the safety of not only the public but the first responder personnel under my command grave concern on getting this project moving forward in a positive direction.

I would like a meeting be set up with you, this office, Mr. Jones, and the lead VDEM UAS staff member to discuss how this program can be reconstituted with an agenda that includes active first responder involvement in all phases of the development of an effective UAS radiological monitoring capability for the first responder community.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important first responder safety initiative. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (540) 507-7900

Sincerely,



R. Christian Eudailey  
Chief-FREM

CC: Ken Jones, Emergency Service Coordinator, Newport News